

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 02507 141021Z

11-R
ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 W
----- 128564
P 140924Z APR 75
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9403

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 2507

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CASC
SUBJECT: FATHER SINNOTT CALLED TO IMMIGRATION OFFICE

REF: SEOUL 2466

1. MARYKNOLL FATHER JAMES SINNOTT WAS SUMMONED TO INCHON IMMIGRATION OFFICE 11:00 A.M. ON APRIL 14. AT HIS REQUEST HE WAS ACCOMPANIED BY KOREAN LAWYER AND U.S. VICE CONSUL.
 2. INCHON IMMIGRATION OFFICE CHIEF, KU YUN-TAEK, STRESSED INFORMALITY OF SUMMONS AND ASKED TO CONDUCT MEETING WITH FATHER SINNOTT PRIVATELY. HOWEVER, UPON THE FATHER'S INSISTENCE HE ACCEPTED PRESENCE OF LAWYER AND VICE CONSUL.
 3. KU STRESSED THAT SOLE PURPOSE OF SUMMONS WAS TO "SINCERELY REQUEST" THAT FATHER RESTRICT HIS ACTIVITIES TO STRICTLY RELIGIOUS MATTERS AND ABSTAIN FROM POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. HE NOTED THAT THIS WAS THIRD SUCH SUMMONS, AND WARNED SINNOTT AGAINST FURTHER ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF PRP AND IN SUPPORT OF TONGA ILBO STRUGGLE.
 4. FATHER SINNOTT POINTED OUT DIFFICULTY OF DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN POLITICAL AND MORAL ISSUES, BUT KU, DECLINING TO ENTER INTO THIS LINE OF ARGUMENT REITERATED WARNING. AT END OF INTERVIEW FATHER WAS GIVEN FORMS TO APPLY FOR EXTENSION OF RESIDENCE
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PERMIT, WHICH EXPIRES APRIL 28.

5. IMMIGRATION CHIEF CONDUCTED MEETING IN POLITE AND PATIENT MANNER BUT GAVE INDICATION REGARDING EVENTUAL ROKG ACTION ON RENEWAL OF FATHER SINNOTT'S RESIDENCE PERMIT. MAIN PURPOSE OF MEETING APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN TO WARN SINNOTT AND TO ESTABLISH RECORD OF PATIENCE AND FAIRNESS IN DEALING WITHHIM IF AND WHEN ROKG DECIDES TO TERMINATE HIS RESIDENCE PERMIT.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Concepts: RELIGIOUS LEADERS, ALLEGATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
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Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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TAGS: PINT, CASC, KS, (SINNOTT, JAMES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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